

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 89

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: GARY HUMASON BIXLER PRESENT POSITION

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: OCT 7, 1957  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: OIL PAINTING

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

AWARDS:

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.



Full Name: Gary Humason Bixler

Date and Place of Birth: October 7, 1957  
Cleveland, Ohio

Category/Primary Media: Oil Painting

Art Training: (1) Life Drawing class at the Cleveland Institute of Art  
(1) Beginning Graphics class at Cuyahoga Community College  
(1) Photography class at Cuyahoga Community College  
I hope to study extensively at the Cleveland Institute of Art in the future.

Exhibitions in Which Your Work Has Been Shown: MARC Art Shows  
(include location and year) Gates Mills Art Shows  
Jewish Community Center Art Shows  
Various years - I did not  
record dates.

Featured artist in Pentagon Gallery - Fall of 1988 (6 Pieces)  
May Show - The Cleveland Museum of Art - 1989

Collections That Now Include Your Work: Various pieces of my artwork have  
been sold. I did not keep records of those sales, therefore, the whereabouts  
of those pieces are unknown.

Awards: First Prize for Oil Painting - MARC Art Show - 1987  
Mayfield Heights Community Center

Various Honorable Mentions in the MARC Art Shows  
and Gates Mills Art Shows - I did not record dates.



### "Farewell to Kings"

This is my largest and most "finished" painting. It has a smoother look and a more uniform finish than my previous works. I hope that this will be a basis of improvement on other paintings that I create in the future. It is monochromatic for the following reasons:

1. It proved to be an extremely good exercise for my self-seeing, as I have had very little artistic formal education.
2. It fit perfectly into the concept of the image. It is my most "planned-out" painting.

The painting is somewhat of a tribute to Dali and Warhol. It is meant to appear like a piece of film because of Warhol's high public exposure and Dali's exhibitionist tendencies. (They were both viewed by the public on the same level as a movie star is.) They are part of the film - they are movie stars - who and what they are will in time fade and disappear completely. They were once material, only to become immaterial. The table in the foreground holds objects from their art. Those images have already out lived the artists - not being part of the film. They are more material than the artists themselves. Those immaterial ideas have a way of growing over time in the minds of others and they become very material.

### "Spring for a Dying Soul"

The painting represents a freer form of painting. I use this style to teach myself better composition and new color combinations. It is more of a "cutting edge" type of painting. (Even though I feel that it is more conservative in comparison to completely abstract works.)



## Philosophy

I started to paint because I was very dissatisfied with what other people were painting. I needed, or hungered to see better and better images.

The more artwork I saw, the more dissatisfied I became.

It has been many years now that I have been painting on and off, and maybe four years since I have been very serious about painting. (Now it is just "on" - not to be "off" ever again.)

I have now learned to appreciate every kind, and everyone's artwork for the reasons that make artwork good or significant.

Now it is my artwork that I must see improvement in. I can measure my progress easily because I am not easily satisfied by the images I create.

When I am partially satisfied, I HAVE improved.

I paint for some other reasons now. I think that painting and creating is almost like a form of meditation. It puts my thoughts in order, and makes me mentally stronger, even in other areas that have nothing to do with art. It also seems to make me emotionally, very stable - even when my art is not being accepted well by others. ACTUALLY, I HAVE TO PAINT !!!

My paintings start with an idea or a concept which I greatly believe in. This gives me a passion for the painting - I will see it through, and it will be as great as I can make it. The idea helps me plan it, and the passion helps in every brush stroke and color combination to make each painting better than the last.